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## House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CÁRDENAS).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

December 7, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TONY CÁRDENAS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

### LEAVING BEHIND AMERICANS MOST IN NEED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week, we saw new data that revealed who is truly being harmed by President Biden's economic crisis. The short answer is that those who can least afford it are being left behind.

Last month, the U.S. economy added only 200,000 new jobs. This isn't

enough. It is not enough to sustain any sort of recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Because of this poor response and because of this poor showing, many industries lost workers, including manufacturers and retail stores. In November, labor force participation actually declined among those with less than a high school diploma or some college education.

Simply stated, the Biden administration's failures are leaving Americans behind at a time when the price of essential goods are skyrocketing. Instead of addressing the crises that liberal policies have created, Democrats are doubling down on the failed legislative ideas that threaten to raise the cost of gasoline and raise the cost of groceries. The costs of beef, vegetables, chicken, and pork are on the rise, and real wages have actually decreased during 7 out of the 9 months that Joe Biden has been in office.

This isn't effective governing, and this is not the way to get America back on track.

### PROTECTING LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENTS TO DEATH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, once again, I rise to call for immediate action on H.R. 3733, the Essential Caregivers Act. It is our sacred duty to protect and serve the American people, and this bill is an opportunity for this body to fulfill that duty.

Over the course of this pandemic, thousands of our fellow Americans were left isolated in long-term care facilities. They were denied access to their friends and families.

Alone and often confused, many suffered from depression and didn't receive the medical care they so desperately needed. Family members were

forced to watch from behind plexiglass and webcams as their loved one's physical and mental health declined. Some even died frightened and alone because of the lack of care.

In one California facility, Nancy Klein's son, who had suffered from a massive brain hemorrhage 6 years ago and has been bedridden ever since, contracted pneumonia three times while in isolation. Later, he contracted COVID.

His mother asked: After all he has been through, don't you think he has done his time?

Yes. I think he has done his time.

Nancy's story and many others like hers are documented in the book "Protecting Them to Death," which was written by one of my great constituents, Karla Abraham-Conley, who lost her mother in a long-term nursing facility. I have shared some of the gut-wrenching stories from this book before, and I will continue to do so until the bipartisan Essential Caregivers Act is passed.

It is imperative that we, the elected Representatives of the American people, stick up for the American people. The Essential Caregivers Act would ensure the senseless, counterproductive policies that were put in place during the pandemic are never repeated.

The fearmongering led to situations where, as Veronica Myers put it, "fear of COVID-19 has put staff safety ahead of resident health, well-being, and safety."

Veronica's 70-year-old father lives in a nursing home in Arkansas but was not allowed to see his family because of the antiscientific procedures of the facility. Veronica added that lack of continuity and communication play a major role in the isolation of residents because basic care and best practices are less important now than COVID-19 mitigation.

Mr. Speaker, this is not how Americans care for their fellow citizens.

All across the country, from my home State of New York all the way to

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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California, families were cut off from their loved ones living in long-term care facilities. These decisions to isolate long-term care facility residents were fatal and will have long-lasting impacts.

Think of the damage that has been caused to people like Melody Stark of California, whose husband had been living in a nursing home for 5 years prior to the pandemic. In March 2020, Melody was on her way to the nursing home for their usual Friday night dinner date when she got a phone call informing her that nonessential visitors were no longer allowed due to COVID-19 lockdowns.

Who could be more essential than one's lifelong partner and spouse?

Melody recounted that "what we thought would be a couple of weeks turned into months and months. There were no virtual or window visits facilitated, and it felt as if everyone except families were wholly unaware of the impact of isolation, depression, and lack of psychosocial support."

Melody continued by saying: "My usually optimistic husband sounded increasingly sad and said things like: 'This is no way to live,' and he would cry. Over time, this led to drastic decline that affected his physical health as well as his mental health. By November 22, 2020, his health had declined to the point that he was hospitalized and passed away. He did not die from COVID but from failure to thrive due to isolation in long-term care. The last time I hugged my husband was when I carried his ashes from the car to the church."

Mr. Speaker, Melody Stark's husband might still be with us today if he had been allowed access to an essential caregiver. That is why we must take action on H.R. 3733.

I am urging all of my colleagues, both Democrats and Republicans, to join me because this is not a partisan issue. It is an issue of compassion and doing the right thing for our fellow Americans who so desperately need our help.

Again, I am grateful to my cosponsor, Representative LARSON, who has so graciously come on board, and so many other Members, in a bipartisan way.

Mr. Speaker, you have heard me share these stories before, and I will continue to share them until the bipartisan Essential Caregivers Act is passed.

#### PRESIDENT TRUMP'S TAX CUTS HELPED MIDDLE CLASS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MCCLAIN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, we have all been forced to suffer through 4 years of hearing the Democrats spreading falsehoods regarding President Trump's middle-class tax cuts.

Over and over again, they claimed, with little fact-checking from their allies in the mainstream media, that this

bill was a tax giveaway to the rich. The Speaker, not trying to be outdone by her colleagues' exaggeration, claimed that the bill was Armageddon.

But, of course, as with many claims from my Democratic colleagues, this runs in contradiction to the actual facts. I will say it again: What government needs is truth, transparency, and consistency from its leaders.

The IRS' own data shows the Democrats have been shamelessly lying about a bill that led to middle-class families keeping more of their hard-earned money and creating more family-sustaining jobs. The data also shows that millions of middle-class Americans received tax cuts ranging anywhere from 16 percent to 26 percent in 2018. We saw employers nationwide provide bonuses to their employees up and down the pay scale.

Median household incomes were on the rise, and the IRS collected more revenue—I am going to say it again—the IRS collected more revenue in 2019 than ever before. Our economy was thriving.

Now that Democrats are in charge, they want to reverse the most successful middle-class tax reform in our Nation's history. They don't just want to return our country to high, uncompetitive tax rates; they actually want to provide a massive tax cut to their elite, coastal friends. They are trying to provide tax breaks to the same wealthy people whom the likes of Senator SANDERS and Speaker PELOSI rail against.

President Biden promised all Americans last year that his plan would go after the evil wealthy. So I ask this: Does this tax break for only the limousine liberals and those living in McMansions sound like President Biden is fulfilling his promise? Or does it, once again, sound like President Biden is deceiving the American people?

But let's not let the facts get in the way of a really good story. I am confident the American people are able to see behind the Democrats' deceit and will be outraged by their giveaways to their rich, elite friends.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

#### HONORING DIANNE HAMILTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HERRELL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. HERRELL. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor a great friend of mine, a true patriot in New Mexico, Representative Dianne Hamilton, who passed away very recently at the age of 87 after serving for 18 years in the New Mexico House.

Dianne was more than a representative. She was truly my mentor, a colleague, a friend, and a person whom everyone looked up to and aspired to be.

When I say "looked up to," she was over 6 feet tall. She had an incredible personality; she was very quick-witted; and her gift was public service.

She was a military wife, so working for our veterans was something that she held very deeply in her heart. She also had an interest in the people of the communities that she served. She opened up the first domestic violence shelter, so this will be something that lives on in her memory.

Mr. Speaker, to tell you the number of stories about her would take up more than the time allotted today to share with you what an inspiration she was.

What was very unique about Dianne was she was a radio host before she got into the New Mexico House of Representatives. She had a knack for making everybody feel important, whether they were a student who had shown an animal at the local fair or if she was meeting with the Governor or somebody beyond.

She was worthy of every award she was ever given, which were things like the Governor's Award for Outstanding New Mexican Women. She was given the Citizen of the Year from her respective counties.

The world needs more Dianne Hamiltons because, truly, her gift was her heart. Her gift was helping people like me pioneer the way to public service where we could learn from a true champion. We learned how to work across the aisle, and we learned how to carry bills and negotiate to get what we wanted.

She was an inspiration and will continue to be even after her life because her family is beautiful. She was an inspiring mom, and she is a woman of such great character.

I can't sit here and say enough about her because there just isn't enough time to really give you, Mr. Speaker, all the aspects and all the benefits of having somebody like Dianne Hamilton not only as a friend but also someone who served and served with purpose.

Again, she pioneered the way for people like me to come up behind her. She taught me how to do things, to make relationships happen, and to be successful as now a U.S. Representative and before as a State representative.

The world needs more Dianne Hamiltons. She was a patriot. She was a mom who gave everything to her loving family. She was someone who gave of herself to her community, to her peers, to her friends. Dianne Hamilton is truly a woman's woman, a person who I will dearly miss. I know her family and her community will miss her as well.

And I just will always take with me the two biggest pieces of advice she ever gave me. First, she said, never let anybody see you cry. Fight for what you believe in and do it with all of the character and class that you can.

And number two, never leave your house or your office without your lipstick. Those are the important things I will always remember.